



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Memorandum

Date: June 15, 1998

Reply to Att. of: MP&E 98-22

Subject: Adjustable Handhold/Ladder Tread

From: Edward R. English
Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance

To: Regional Administrators, Deputy Regional Administrators,
Motive Power & Equipment Specialists and Inspectors

The adjustable handhold/ladder tread is 3/4 inch in diameter. Its length may be adjusted as needed, by the application of a 1/4 inch roll pin into the desired hole. The remaining portion is to be cut off, leaving a smooth surface.

In 1988 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) ruled that this adjustable safety appliance meets the specified requirements, if properly applied. However, FRA expressed concern of the possibility of improper application, such as the substitution of the roll pin, improper securement, etc.

If any deficiency is found concerning this safety appliance, such as substitution of the roll pin, improper securement, etc. it should be reported to the regional MP&E Specialist with all pertinent information, including photographs. The specialist is to promptly advise the MP&E Division Chief.

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